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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/684,303	10/10/2003	Terry J. Sills	301-002	3325

33354 7590 09/21/2006

ETHERTON LAW GROUP, LLC
5555 E. VAN BUREN STREET, SUITE 100
PHOENIX, AZ 85008

EXAMINER

SILBERMANN, JOANNE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3611

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/684,303	Applicant(s) SILLS, TERRY J.	
	Examiner Joanne Silbermann	Art Unit 3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,8-15,21-23 and 26-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-15 and 21-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,8,9,26-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 10-15 and 21-23 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 15 August 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jackson, US #5,464,672.

4. Jackson discloses an object orientation indicator system including at least one display (the notepad, including a plurality of sheets) comprising bound edge 14 and regularly contoured edge 20 (Figures 1 and 2) opposite the bound edge. Reference markers 18 are attached to the edge of sheets 12. At least one reference marker is located only on the regularly contoured edge. The reference marker is visible only when in the proper orientation.

5. Jackson discloses that the notepad includes Post-It note sheets (column 1 lines 5-15) which include repositionable adhesive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson.

8. Jackson does not teach the particular indicia used in forming the reference marker. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify Jackson by making the marker in the form of a smiling or frowning face since it is considered an obvious matter of design to vary the indicia displayed as desired. The particular indicia displayed is not considered to be a patentable feature.

9. Claims 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Raymer, US #3,817,492.

10. Raymer discloses a notepad including a plurality of rectangular sheets bound at one edge 16 and having four straight edges. Reference marker 22 is located on one edge.

11. Raymer does not teach the reference marker as not being on the top of the sheets, however, this is considered to be entirely a matter of design choice. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to place the indicia on the sheets only where it is intended to be viewed.

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12. Raymer does not teach a smiling face, however this would have been obvious to the same reasons as discussed above.

13. Raymer does not specifically teach repositionable adhesive, however, bound edge includes padding compound 16 of "known conventional materials used to fasten edges of paper together to permit easy removal". It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to choose repositionable adhesive for such material.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments filed 24 July 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

15. Applicant argues that the reference marker is only visible when the notepad is in the proper orientation, however, such orientation depends on the user, which is not part of the claimed invention.

16. Applicant also argues the "contour" of the notepad, saying that the heart shaped note pad described in the Specification is regular. Similarly, the design of Jackson is also considered to be regular.

17. The Raymer reference has been applied in view of Applicant's amendments regarding four straight edges.

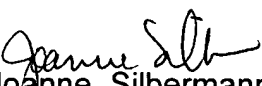
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joanne Silbermann whose telephone number is 571-272-6653. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 - 2:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 571-272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Joanne Silberman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

js
18 September 2006